

Solicitor General

Office of the Solicitor General

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132-2022-480

132-2022-509

By email

February 10, 2022

His Worship Jim Watson
Mayor
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa ON K1P 1J1
Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca

Dianne Deans
Councillor, City of Ottawa, Gloucester-Southgate Ward
Chair, Ottawa Police Services Board
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa ON K1P 1J1
Diane.Deans@ottawa.ca

Dear Mayor Watson and Councillor Deans:

Thank you for your letter, also addressed to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, requesting additional officers to support the Ottawa Police Service.

Public safety is a top priority for this government. The Ministry of the Solicitor General is committed to working with our policing and community partners to provide them with the resources and tools they need to keep Ontario's communities safe and resilient.

The right to peacefully protest is core to our Canadian identity - peaceful protests are a cornerstone of a healthy democracy. However, criminal behaviour is never tolerated, and hatred or intolerance must be condemned by all. We are disturbed to see some individuals desecrate treasured monuments, damage property and display symbols of hate and intolerance. That has no place in Ontario or Canada. Not now. Not ever.

We have been encouraging all those participating in the Ottawa protests to govern their actions in a way to ensure they are peaceful and respectful to the community and to those charged with keeping the peace.

Regarding the City of Ottawa and Ottawa Police Services Board's request for significant additional operational resources, please note that I have shared your correspondence with Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner Thomas Carrique. Commissioner Thomas Carrique and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Commissioner Brenda Lucki will continue to liaise with Chief Peter Sloly, Ottawa Police Service, to determine how policing partners can provide support based on available policing resources and the operational plan proposed by the Ottawa Police Service.

Thank you again for taking the time to write, and please be assured that the Ministry of the Solicitor General is committed to supporting our policing partners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Jones', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General

c: The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner Thomas Carrique